

AMENDED CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (amended) An abdominal tube band for holding medical tubes adapted to be attached to a patient comprising:

a substantially rectangular fabric band having dimensions that permit the band to be releasably connectable when fitted around a human body;

a protective pocket positioned ~~within the band~~ between the ends of the band with an opening of the pocket being away from the patient's skin for receiving medical tube ends extending from the patient's body; and

fastening means for releasably securing the band in position, the fastening means being connected to opposite ends of the band such that when the band is fitted around a human body the opposite ends of the band will overlap for engaging the fastening means and the pocket is positioned proximal to the medical tube ends, such that the medical tube ends are readily insertable into and removable from the pocket, wherein the pocket provides support and protection for the medical tube ends and wherein the pocket does not contact the stoma,

thereby providing a comfortable tube holder that is independent of any patient garment and does not contact the stoma, but that provides adequate support and protection of the medical tubes and their insertion region within the patient's body.

2. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the fastening means are hook and loop fasteners.

3. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the fastening means are ties.

4. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is formed of breathable material.
5. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is formed of cotton.
6. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is formed of a sheeting material.
7. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is formed of canvas.
8. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of material that is woven, knitted, nonwoven, and combinations thereof.
9. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is disposable.
10. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the band is reusable.
11. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket is formed of a material that is cleanable.
12. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket material is water resistant.
13. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket material is waterproof.
14. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket material includes a synthetic liner.
15. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket material includes a coated fabric.

16. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket material is formed from a material selected from the group consisting of nylon, polyester, polyethylene, polypropylene, and combinations thereof.

17. (original) The band according to claim 1, wherein the pocket is closeable.

18. (original) The band according to claim 17, wherein the pocket is closeable using hook and loop fasteners.

19. (amended) A medical band for holding medical tubes adapted to be attached to a patient comprising:

a substantially rectangular fabric band having dimensions that permit the band to be releasably connectable when fitted around a human body;

a pocket positioned ~~within the band~~ between the ends of the band with a top opening of the pocket for receiving medical tube ends extending from the patient's body wherein the opening of the pocket permits insertion and removal of the medical tube ends with a bottom support base of the pocket providing for support of the medical tube ends; and

hook and loop fasteners for releasably securing the band in position connected to opposite ends of the band such that when the band is fitted around a human body the opposite ends of the band will overlap for engaging the hook and loop fasteners and the pocket is positioned proximal to the medical tube ends,

thereby providing a comfortable tube end holder that is independent of any patient garment and does not contact the stoma, but that provides adequate support and protection of the medical tubes and their insertion region within the patient's body.